

Application No.: 09/975385

Case No.: 56390US002

REMARKS**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112**

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner alleges that in each of the independent claims the phrase "the curable material between the mold and the substrate" has no antecedent basis.

The requested amendment overcomes this rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 7-19, and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because as alleged by the Examiner, "the specification, while being enabling for the production of ceramic microstructures, does not reasonably provide enablement for the process as generically claimed."

Although the Applicant does not agree with the allegation of the Examiner, in the interest of expediting the prosecution, each of the independent claims have been amended to include the features of dependent claim 3.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102/103

Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 11 and 16-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0 866 487. Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 16-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by EP 0 866 487.

These rejections are now moot in view of the requested amendments. Support for the amendments is found throughout the specification such as at p. 17, lines 1-3 and p. 22, lines 18-21. A timely allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

5-20-04

Date

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